

(90+, 9 and 11.ix), *Nymphalis io* L. (4, 30.viii and 6.ix), *Polyommatus icarus* Rott. (1, 8.viii), *Lycaena phlaeas* L. (1, 24.viii), *Pieris napi* L. (1, 24.viii and 1.ix), *Gonepteryx rhamni* L. (3, 9.ix), and small numbers of *Pieris brassicae* L. and *P. rapae* L.—Mr. and Mrs. TREVOR B. SILCOCKS, 3 Kenmeade Close, Shipham, Winscombe, Somerset. 1.xi.1968.

POLYCHRISIA MONETA FAB. (THE GOLDEN PLUSIA) AT WOKING—On the 13th July 1968, a *Polychrisia moneta* ab. *maculata* Lempke came to my mercury vapour lamp. This is the first record of this aberration in this country. It is described, however, by Lempke in *Tijdschrift voor Entomologie* 90, 1949, p. 121, an example having been taken at Apeldoorn. My specimen was exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society.—A. G. M. BATTEN, Littledale, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey. 14.x.1968.

A NOTABLE VARIETY OF BISTON BETULARIA L.—On the 5th June 1967, I took at my mercury vapour light at Hook Heath, Woking, an unusual example of *Biston betularia* L. The forewings are almost entirely black, the *carbonaria* form and the hindwings are identical with the normal *betularia*.

This example has been examined by the British Museum, who have no similar form in their collection. The only other similar insect was bred by Dr. H. B. D. Kettlewell. No name has yet been given to this unusual aberration. A somewhat similar example was shown at the Annual Exhibition of the South London ent. and nat. Hist. Society on 30th October 1965, a photograph of which was reproduced on Plate 1 of their Proceedings in April 1966, but my example has much blacker forewings than the one referred to. My specimen also was exhibited at the Annual Exhibition of the British ent. and nat. Hist. Soc. on 2nd November 1968.—A. G. M. BATTEN, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey. 30.x.1968.

ACHERONTIA ATROPOS L. AND HONEY—I was much interested in the article entitled "Atropos and the Bees" (antea; 243). I cannot answer any of the questions with which the O.M.H. concludes his notes, but I took *atropos* in rather unusual circumstances. My father-in-law kept many beehives and had been taking off honey and used an extractor in the kitchen preparatory to putting the honey into jars, which, for convenience were placed full of honey in a number of ordinary metal household washing baths. In the middle of the afternoon *atropos* came boldly in and settled down in one of the baths beside the honey jars. My mother-in-law, with great presence of mind, knowing that I was due to arrive that evening put a large glass over it. On arriving, I was able to take *atropos* which gave its characteristic squeak when touched. I still have the specimen—a splendid creature—together with a larva and a deceased pupa.

All this happened at St. Nicholas at Wade, near Birchington, Kent, where there were usually many acres under potato. School children, whose fathers were farm labourers, frequently brought specimens of larvae and pupae to the school, of which my father-in-law was the headmaster in 1929.—A. G. M. BATTEN, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey. 25.x.1968.

HIPPOTION CELERIO L. IN THE FOLKESTONE AREA—At a quarter past four on the 7th November, I took a specimen of *Hippotion celerio* L. (the silver striped hawk) in the Cheriton district.—C. BIBB, 4 Geraldine Road, Folkestone, Kent.